

Message Text

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66/46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IGA-01

DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07

IO-10 /073 W

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O R 241650Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0554

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

AMCONSUL RECIFE

UNCLAS BRASILIA 6142

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 LN 6)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BR

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT EXTENT OF FLOODING RECIFE AREA

REF: BRASILIA 6122; BRASILIA 6123

1. US CONSUL RECIFE HAS REPORTED TO CHARGE THAT LATE YESTERDAY, JULY 23, HE CALLED ON EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF TRABALHO E ACAO SOCIAL, WHO COORDINATES GOVERNMENTAL RELIEF EFFORT, TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE STATUS REPORT. SECRETARY SAID THOSE STILL HOMELESS AND RECEIVING AID IN EMERGENCY RELIEF CENTERS NUMBER 30,800 IN RECIFE AREA; IN THE INTERIOR, FOR WHICH FIGURES ARE LESS HARD, THE NUMBER LIES BETWEEN 16-18,000. THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WAS VERY HARD-NOSED IN ITS ASSESSMENT AND THAT THE FIGURES WERE DEFINITELY ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE, ESPECIALLY THOSE FOR THE INTERIOR. FIGURES ONLY COVER GOVERNMENT AID THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED

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CENTERS, AND DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. CONSUL AGREES THAT
IN HIS JUDGEMENT FIGURES DEFINITELY ARE CONSERVATIVE.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER VISITED RECIFE JULY 23 AND WAS
IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION
IN MOST RECIFE AREA, AND RESULTING MISERY AND
POVERTY OF SUBSTANTIAL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION. EMBOFF
CONCURS IN CONSUL'S JUDGEMENT THAT UP TO 70 PERCENT OF
RECIFE AREA HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD, MANY
SECTIONS SEVERELY. EMBOFF SUPPORTS CONSUL'S RECOMMEN-
DATION THAT USHMOVE PROMPTLY TO SUPPORT BRAZILIAN
RELIEF EFFORTS.

3. CONSUL ALSO EXPLORED WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
TRABALHO E ACAO SOCIAL'S CURRENT NEEDS.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SAID THAT IN THE MEANTIME OTHER
ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING AND THAT CURRENT NEEDS
OF HIS OWN ORGANIZATION INCLUDE 10,000 BED LINENS,
10,000 BLANKETS, 5,000-10,000 COTS OR MATTRESSES,
INJECTION GUNS (UP TO 10), ANTIBIOTICS TO TREAT 20,000
PERSONS, ALONG WITH AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF VITAMIN C. HE
SAID THERE WAS AN INCREASING INCIDENCE OF
GRIPPE AND RESPIRATORY DISEASE, AND HE WAS CONCERNED
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INFECTION AND EPIDEMIC.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS FAVORABLE
ACTION ON ITS RECOMMENDATION ASAP SO THAT US SUPPORT
AND ASSISTANCE EFFORTS CAN BEGIN BY WEEKEND. EMBASSY'S
RELIEF COORDINATING COMMITTEE NOW DEVELOPING DEFINITIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRIORITY ITEMS AND PROCUREMENT
MODALITIES. PRELIMINARY INDICATORS ARE THAT EARLIEST
DELIVERY OF INJECTORS SHOULD HAVE TOP PRIORITY -- AND
EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS LATER TODAY.
RUSER

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TAGS: SWEL, BR, US
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